

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 30, 2007

TO: CON Commission

FROM: Jan Christensen
Health Policy, Regulation, and Professions Administration

SUBJECT: Hospital Movement Fact Finding Committee

In the fall of 2006, the CON Commission asked the Department to review the available factual information that could support the movement of a hospital beyond the established 2 and 5 mile replacement zone limits.

The Department convened an informal workgroup which met on two occasions. In addition, the Department reviewed the available, factual evidence including population trends, building replacement factors, green building design, the previous hospital SAC findings, hospital utilization rates, and health care trends for aging populations. In addition, we requested information supporting proposed hospital movement from those hospitals and health systems interested in moving.

The materials reviewed, informal weekly group membership, and sample letter requesting information is attached.

Results: The Department has reached the following determination:

- While there is considerable information that “green” technology can provide cost savings, this information does not by itself lead to the conclusion that there is a need to rebuild hospitals outside of the replacement zone.
- Hospitals are generally available statewide and access greater than 30 minutes travel time does not appear to be a problem for the state.
- A combination of the other data available to the department at this time requires the conclusion that a change in standards is not necessary.
- The department has not yet however, received detailed information supporting the specific proposals for individual hospitals who wish to move.

In summary, the Department has completed its review of the currently available information. As is always the case with CON, further future review in response to new or emerging information of a compelling nature may be necessary during the next regular statutory review of the hospital beds need methodology.

JC:ln
Enclosures